

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07

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OSD:ISA:MGEN BOWMAN

EUR:RPM:WTROBINSON

EUR:NE:SWORREL

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION USNATO PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE

10TRW RAF ALCONBURY UK

OSAF WASH DC/SAFO IH

81TFW RAF BENTWATERS UK

HQ USAF WASH DC/LGY

48TFW RAF LAKENHEATH UK

USDAO LONDON ENGLAND

3AF RAF MILDENHALL UK DAS DELTA

513TAW RAF MILDENHALL UK

ASD WPAFB OH/ENFE

HQ USAFE RAMSTEIN AB GE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 307268

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: MPOL, NATO, UK

SUBJECT: CONVERSION OF UK BASES TO F-34 (JP-8) FUEL

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REFS: A. OSAF WASHDCSAFOIP 081330Z DEC 77 (NOTAL);

B. US MISSION NATO 12592 DTG 131606Z DEC 77 (NOTAL);

C. US CINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE 141650Z DEC 77 (NOTAL)

1. REFERENCE A PROVIDED BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON USAF

PROPOSAL TO CONVERT US FORCES IN UK FROM JP-4 TO

F-34 (JP-8) FUEL. REFERENXE B EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER

POSSIBILITY OF NEWS RELEASE ON F-34 CONVERSION BEFORE APPROPRIATE NATO AUTHORITIES WERE BRIEFED. REFERENCE C CONCURRED WITH CONCERN STATED IN REFERENCE B AND RECOMMENDED APPROPRIATE BRIEFING BE PROVIDED NATO FUELS WORKING GROUP (WG-4).

2. AS INDICATED IN REF A PARA 4, REF A IS FOR OFFICES OF INFORMATION PLANNING PURPOSES ONLY AND NOT FOR PUBLIC RELEASE.

3. FAVORABLE TEST RESULTS TO DATE USING F-34 FUEL IN THE F100 ENGINE HAVE PROMPTED THE AIR FORCE TO AMEND THEIR POSITION ON CONVERSION. THE AIR FORCE PLANS TO INTRODUCE F-34 (JP-8) INTO OPERATIONAL UNITS TO OBTAIN ACTUAL OPERATIONAL EXPERIENCE. UK WAS SELECTED AS THE INITIAL SITE DUE TO EUROPEAN LOCATION AND CURRENT USE OF F-34 BY THE HOST COUNTRY. ANY TESTING REQUIRED TO VALIDATE FLIGHT MANUAL INSTRUCTIONS OR ENSURE OPERATIONAL SUITABILITY WILL BE COMPLETED PRIOR TO COMPLETE CONVERSION.

4. REQUEST MISSION CONTACT WG4 CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS AS APPROPRIATE AND OFFER USAF BRIEFING IN MID-JAN ON RESULTS OF F100 ENGINE TESTS AND PROPOSED PLAN OF ACTION TO CONVERT USAF FORCES IN UK TO F-34 FUEL. WE CANNOT WAIT UNTIL NEXT SCHEDULED WG4 MEETING IN MARCH TO ACT IF YOU FIND IT IMPRACTICAL TO BRIEF WG4
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IN JANUARY. WE WOULD THEN PLAN TO ADVISE WG4 PARTICIPANTS IN WRITING. THROUGH MISSION, OF OUR FINDINGS ON F100 ENGINE AND OUR INTENT TO CONVERT TO F-34 IN THE UK. REQUEST BY 29 DEC MISSION VIEWS ON POINTS TO BE COVERED AND AVOIDED IN EITHER BRIEFING OR WRITTEN NOTIFICATION. YOUR OFFER TO WG4 CHAIRMAN SHOULD BE CAST AS POSITIVE SHOW OF RESOLVE ON PART OF US TO EVALUATE F-34 OPERATIONALLY IN EFFORT TO ENHANCE NATO STANDARDIZATION/INTEROPERABILITY. VANCE

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